

From: Michael Charrier
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 8:55am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It may Concern:

I wish to register my vote AGAINST the current proposed settlement in the Microsoft Antitrust Trial.

I have had the chance to read many letters, essays, and articles that are freely available on the web that more than adequately explain the "for" and "against" issues. Many people have adeptly explained the technical issues with how Microsoft can pervert the current settlement to their own ends. I believe that they have very good points and I will not attempt to repeat what has already been so well explained.

I have a few questions for you to consider as you make your judgement on whether or not to alter the proposed settlement:

1. In a country that was founded "by the people" and "for the people", does not the interest of "the people" come before the interest of a corporation? Corporations are made up of people, but a corporation is not a person itself. Is this not a case of the NEEDS of the many outweigh the WANTS of the one?
2. Why does Microsoft continue to lie to the justice department? Microsoft has, in the past and present, attempted to sway both the public and the courts with "astroturf" campaigns (see: <http://www.newsfactor.com/perl/story/13046.html>) where they pay people to influence our government and courts to their ends. Why must they generate a false grassroots movement to push their viewpoint? Would not customers who were satisfied with their products be the ones running such a campaign, not Microsoft?
3. Has not Microsoft continued its anti-competitive practices during the trial and settlement phases? It seems they have with the introduction of Windows XP and the new licensing agreements that they are currently trying to enforce on other corporations.

My concern is that Microsoft has become an entity that the current administration and justice department is unwilling (not unable) to control. It seems that our government and judicial system are for sale to the highest bidder by allowing corporations to continue to override the will of "the people". "The people" (a.k.a. consumers) will continue to be at the mercy of Microsoft's monopoly if the current proposed settlement is accepted as-is. Please, do NOT let this happen.

Sincerely,
Michael Scott Charrier
President - Charrier Consulting International